

The Mirror

OF

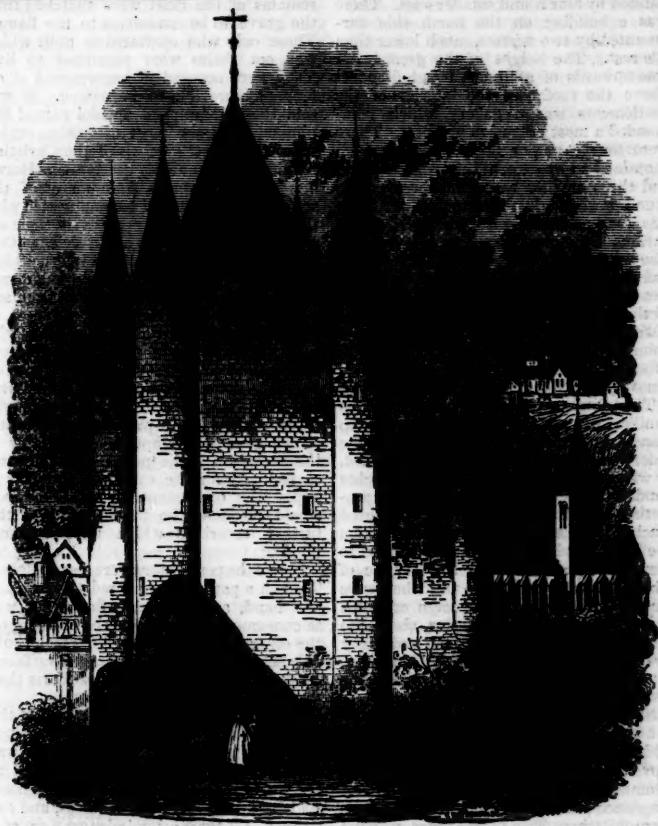
LITERATURE, AMUSEMENT, AND INSTRUCTION.

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Original Communications.

THE TEMPLE IN PARIS.

This building, one of the most ancient and most remarkable in Paris, was long regarded with more than common interest, from its connexion with memorable historical scenes. It was established by the Knights Templars in the thirteenth century.

No. 1168.]

By the hospitalers of Saint John of Jerusalem, the Temple was made the provincial house of the grand Priory of France. It stood on a vast enclosed site, and was fortified with embattled towers, most of which were demolished more than half a century ago. Within the enclosure various piles of buildings, with courts and gardens, appeared; among them the palace of the

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Grand Prior, built by Jacques de Souvret, Grand Prior in 1566. The entrance to it was from the Rue de Temple. It was erected after the designs of De Lisle. The front was decorated with Doric columns, over which appeared an attic, and a pediment.

Within the enclosure, detached from the rest, appeared "Les Tours du Temple." The edifice presented a square tower, flanked by four round smaller ones. There was a building on the north side surrounded by two turrets, much lower than the rest. The height of the great tower was upwards of a hundred and fifty feet above the roof. In the interior of the battlements was a gallery which commanded a most extensive prospect. There were four *étages*, or floors, each of which contained an apartment thirty feet square, and three smaller rooms in three of the round towers. In the fourth tower there was a very fine staircase, which led to the various apartments and to the turrets. The whole fabric was built of free stone, and the walls of the great tower were nine feet thick. It was built by a commander of the order, from whom it derived its distinguishing appellation. His name was John le Ture. It was erected in 1306. Often used as a state prison, it was sometimes appropriated as a magazine of arms.

Though many of our readers must be familiar with the subject, we cannot help glancing at the remarkable history of the order with whom the Temple originated. It was established in 1118. The Knights banded themselves for the purpose of protecting the pilgrims, who had experienced much ill usage as they journeyed to and from the Holy Land. A house was assigned to them at Jerusalem, near the Temple of King Solomon, and from this they were named Templars. In the reign of Louis le Jeune they held a chapter, about the year 1147, at which the King and many lords and prelates attended, and the Pope, Eugenius III, consented to become the head of the order.

Not only were the Templars successful in arms, but they were eminently successful in acquiring wealth. This in the end proved their ruin. The most atrocious calumnies were promulgated, and brutal vengeance pursued the unhappy fraternity to annihilation. Two of the order, who for their crimes had been condemned to imprisonment for life, the Prior of Montfaucon, and a Florentine named Noffodei, caused it to be reported to Enguerrand de Marigni that they could reveal secrets from which the King might gain larger benefits than would result from the conquest of a kingdom. Marigni lent a ready ear to the wretched informers. The luxury, pride, and overbearing conduct of the knights had made them many enemies.

All the Templars in France were arrested on the 13th October, 1307, and a tribunal composed of bishops and monks was appointed to try them in every province. Numerous were the charges preferred, and everything that went to inculpate the accused met with a warm reception. Chains, dungeons, and executions were numerous, and such was the mad rage excited against them, that even the remains of the dead were snatched from the grave to be committed to the flames. Those only who confessed to guilt which was not theirs were permitted to live. They were accused of sorcery, and of offences too horrible to be named. It was said they worshipped an idol named Baphomet with the most disgusting orgies, while the holiest symbols of the Christian religion were wantonly desecrated. Horrible tortures extorted from many of the sufferers that they had communicated with the devil, who had appeared in their assemblies under the form of a male cat. One declared that he had assisted in crucifying Jesus Christ, and other acknowledgments equally extravagant, were drawn from anguish by persevering cruelty.

The grand master, James de Molai, who was sponsor to one of the King's children, Guy, commander of Aquitaine, Huynes de Peraide, Grand Prior of France, having first been examined at Chinon, were brought to Paris to repeat in public the confession of the general corruption and infamy of the Templars. The populace had begun to feel pity for the sufferers, and it was hoped the confessions now to be made would reconcile the public mind to the further severities which were contemplated.

In this the persecutors were disappointed. Though a pardon was offered them on the one hand, and a blazing fire which was to consume them to ashes shown them on the other, they despised a life which could only be purchased by self-incriminating falsehood. A modern historian of Paris thus carries on the melancholy story:—

"The grand master, like the rest of the nobility of that age, could neither read nor write. When the deposition which he was said to have made at Chinon was read to him at Paris, he seemed greatly astonished, made twice the sign of the cross, and exclaimed, 'If these commissioners were of a different profession, I know what proposal I should make to them;' but as cardinals could not accept a challenge, he added, 'Well, I only pray to God that they may be ripped up alive, as the Tartars and Saracens serve liars and perjurors.' Vertot says, that in order to make the grand master appear more culpable, the recorder had added some aggravating circumstances to the deposition.

"The four chief officers were afterwards

placed on a scaffold erected before the church of Notre Dame ; the act which commuted their capital sentence into perpetual imprisonment was read, and then one of the legates made an harangue, in which he detailed the abominations and impieties of which the Templars, upon their own confession, had been convicted ; and to confirm what he alleged, he called upon the grand master to repeat publicly the confession which he had made at Poitiers. The unfortunate old man, shaking his chains and advancing to the front of the scaffold, said, 'Yes, I will speak ; I have too long betrayed the truth. O God, vouchsafe to hear me ; vouchsafe to receive the oath I now make, and may it be of service to me when I appear before thy tribunal. I swear that all I have said against the Templars is false ; that the order has ever been zealous for the faith ; charitable, just, and orthodox ; and if I had the weakness to say otherwise, at the solicitation of the pope and the king, and in order to suspend the horrible torments which I was suffering, I repeat of it. I perceive that I am irritating our executioners, and that the flames will soon be kindled. I submit to all the torments prepared for me, and acknowledge, O my God, that no sufferings are great enough to expiate the offence which I have committed against my brethren, and against truth and religion.'

"The legate, disconcerted, ordered the grand master to be taken back to prison, along with Guy, commander of Aquitaine, who also retracted ; and on the same evening they were burnt on the Pont-Neuf, on the spot where the statue of Henry IV now stands. They remained firm to the last, invoking Jesus Christ to support their fortitude ; while the people, in consternation and tears, gathered their ashes and carried them off as precious relics. Mézeray relates, that the grand master summoned the pope to appear before the tribunal of God in forty days, and the king in a year. If this be true, the event fulfilled the prediction. The two commanders who did not retract were treated with lenity. As to the two wretches who gave rise to the persecution, one perished in a dispute, and the other, Noffodei, was hanged for some new crime."

It is worth while to add, from the same writer :—

"Enguerrand de Marigny met the end which he so justly deserved. On the eve of Ascension Day, in 1315, he was hanged before daybreak, as was then the custom, on a gibbet erected some years before, by his own order, at Montfaucon, near Paris. 'As maître du logis,' says Mézeray, 'he had the honour of being suspended at the upper end, above all the other rogues.'"

The 'Pictorial History of France,' from

which the fine representation of the Temple, given in the present number, is taken, adds the following mournful statement :—

"At the same moment—so carefully had matters been prepared—similar seizures were made in every part of the kingdom ; and next day, the king, who had already taken possession of the Temple, and made it the depository of his treasure-chests, and the muniments of the crown, caused proclamation to be made of all the crimes and misdemeanours of which his victims were accused. This catalogue was of the most frightful kind, and was not the less credulously received, that it comprised offences utterly revolting to human nature, together with numerous absurdities, contradictions, and even impossibilities. It was alleged that the initiation of a knight was accompanied with impure ceremonies and strange revelations ; that the Templars adored some idol, to whom the chronicles of the time have given the name of *Beaphumet* ; that they rejected the worship of the Saviour, and were accustomed wantonly to desecrate the holiest symbols of his religion ; and that they were commonly guilty of pollutions, too vile to be even named. The knights appealed to Pope Clement to investigate the matter, and the Pontiff, on being pressed to do so, proceeded so far in their behalf as to suspend the decision of the secular judges ; but, remembering his obligations to Philippe, he soon revoked this act of mercy, and granted a licence for the renewal of the civil processes, on condition that the fate of the grand master, and the chief preceptors, should be reserved for his own judgment.

"Every one was loaded with chains, and reduced to the most meagre and unpalatable diet ; and when it was found that sufficient evidence could not be procured voluntarily to convict the assumed culprits, an inquisition was organized, and empowered to apply the most horrible tortures to extort confession. In Paris alone, thirty-six knights died upon the rack, maintaining their innocence to the last ; while others, less able to endure agony, confessed to crimes which our reason convinces us could never have been perpetrated. Even those, however, who were entrapped into criminal admissions under torment, recanted in their dungeons, and nothing remained of trust-worthy testimony, save the unimportant and well-known facts, that the Templars were generally addicted to pride, avarice, and licentiousness of various kinds—vices, from which the king was no more exempt, than these his persecuted subjects. As a specimen of the kinds of confession elicited, it may be noticed that Bernard du Gué, one of those who subsequently retracted, exhibited to his judges, while his feet were being exposed to the action of a scorching

fire, two bones which had been magically extracted from his heel; and Americ de Villiers, while under excruciating suffering, exclaimed, in the presence of his tormentors, that he had personally assisted at the death of our Saviour. Some others admitted that the devil was frequently present and presided at their secret orgies, making his appearance among them at times in the shape of a tom cat.

"This persecution lasted for more than four years, when the council of Vienna decreed, and the Pope (on the 22nd March, 1312) confirmed, the entire abolition of the order. The extent of misery inflicted by these unnatural proceedings, may be estimated from the fact that, at Senlis, not less than nine knights were consigned to the flames; and that fifty-four perished together at the stake (12th May, 1310) in Paris—all protesting their innocence of the offences with which they stood accused. 'We have the failings of men,' said the sufferers; 'but to have been guilty of the wickedness imputed to us, we must have been incarnate fiends.'"

The Temple, in modern times, has been celebrated for having been the prison in which Louis the Sixteenth, his queen and family, were confined. Clery's 'Journal' gives some striking descriptions of the building, and of the way in which the Royal inmates passed part their time. He writes:—

"The body of the building was four stories high. The first consisted of an ante-chamber, a dining-room, and a small room in the turret, where there was a library, containing from twelve to fifteen hundred volumes.

"The second story was divided nearly in the same manner. The largest room was the Queen's bed-chamber, in which the Dauphin also slept; the second, which was separated from the Queen's by a small antichamber almost without light, was occupied by Madame Royale and Madame Elizabeth. This chamber was the only way to the turret-room on this story, and that turret-room was the only place of office for this whole range of building, being in common for the royal family, the municipal officers, and the soldiers.

"The King's apartments were on the third story. He slept in the great room, and made a study of the turret-closet. There was a kitchen separated from the King's chamber by a small dark room, which had been successively occupied by M. de Chamilly and M. Hué, and on which the seals were now fixed. The fourth story was shut up; and on the ground floor there were kitchens, of which no use was made.

"The four rooms of which the King's apartments consisted, had a false ceiling

of cloth, and the partitions were hung with a coloured paper. The ante-chamber had the appearance of the interior of a jail, and on one of the panels was hung the Declaration of the Rights of Man, in very large characters with a tri-coloured frame. A chest of drawers, a small bureau, four chairs with cushions, an armed chair, a few rush-bottomed chairs, a table, a glass over the chimney, and a green damask bed, were all the furniture of the King's chamber: these articles, as well as what was in the other rooms, were taken from the Temple palace. The King's bed was that in which the Count d'Artois, captain of the guards, used to sleep.

"The Queen occupied the third story, which was distributed in much the same manner as the King's. The bed-chamber for the Queen and Madame Royale was above his Majesty's: in the turret was their closet. Madame Elizabeth's room was over mine. The entrance served for an ante-chamber, where the municipal officers watched by day and slept at night. Tison and his wife were lodged over the King's dining-room.

"The fourth story was not occupied. A gallery ran all along within the battlements, which sometimes served as a walk. The embrasures were stopt up with blinds to prevent the family from seeing or being seen.

"Few changes were made since their Majesties being together in the great tower as to the hours of their meals, their reading, their walks, or as to the time they had hitherto dedicated to the education of their children. Soon after the King was up he read the form of prayer of the knights of the Holy Ghost, and as a mass had not been permitted at the Temple, even on holidays, he commanded me to purchase a breviary, such as was used in the diocese of Paris. This monarch was of a religious turn; but his religion, pure and enlightened, never encroached upon his other duties. Books of travels, Montesquieu's works, those of Buffon, de la Pluche's 'Spectacle de la Nature,' Hume's 'History of England,' in English, 'On the Imitation of Christ,' in Latin, 'Tasso,' in Italian, and French plays, were what he usually read from his first being sent into confinement. He devoted four hours a day to Latin authors.

"The Queen and Madame Elizabeth having desired books of devotion similar to those of the King, his Majesty commanded me to purchase them. Often have I seen Madame Elizabeth on her knees by her bedside praying with fervency.

"At nine o'clock the King and his son were summoned to breakfast: I attended them. I afterwards dressed the hair of the Queen and Princesses, and, by the Queen's orders, taught Madame Royale to

dress hair. While I was doing this the King played at drafts or chess, sometimes with the Queen, sometimes with Madame Elizabeth."

The church of the Temple was demolished at the time of the Revolution, when the order of Saint John of Jerusalem was suppressed, and the "Marché au Vieux Linge" was formed.

The lofty surrounding walls were taken down in 1802, and the tower itself disappeared in 1811.

LONDON AS IT IS TO BE.

THE houses, and indeed the streets, long familiar to Cockney eyes, are fast vanishing. What is now doing, however, is nothing to what is to be done. The following is an outline of the changes contemplated by the committee of the Court of Common Council:—There is to be a street from the east end of Paternoster row to Fetter lane, and a branch street to Holborn, commencing with the houses at the west end of Cheapside, projecting beyond the line of St Martin's le Grand, all between Paternoster row, St Paul's churchyard, as far as Ave Maria lane, Amen corner, crossing the Old Bailey, to Farringdon street, to Shoe lane, Printer street, Great New street, to Fetter lane, to the city boundary; and the branch street from Little New street, to the north end of Fetter-lane, Holborn, about 3,360 feet in length. The greatest accivity in the whole of this line will not be more than 1 in 31, and that for only about 370 feet.—Another, from the north end of Dowgate hill to the east end of St Paul's churchyard, thence to Earl street, Blackfriars, through Tower Royal, Little and Great Distaff lanes, crossing the Old Change into St Paul's churchyard, about 1,360 feet in length, and from the Old Change through Knighttrider court, Carter lane, Godliman street, Bell yard, Addle hill, to the east end of Earl street, about 1,200 feet in length.—From Watling street, from Aldermanry Church to the west end of St Paul's churchyard, about 1,055 feet in length.—From the Poultry, on the north side, to the Old Jewry, and 100 feet of the north side of Mansion-house street, about 1,055 feet in length; from the Mansion house across Bucklersbury and Sizelane to Queen street, from Watling street to the east end of Basing lane, the east side of Queenstreet from Watling street to Thames street, about 1,400 feet in length.—From Lime street, east side, from Cullum street to Fenchurch street, Leadenhall market from Fenchurch street through to the south end of Gracechurch street, about 800 feet in length; Aldgate, south side, from the Saracen's Head to Jewry street, and the east end of Leadenhall street, at its junction with Fenchurch street.—From

Broad street buildings to the Curtain road, through Halfmoon street to Sun street, thence to Skinner street, and on to Worship street, about 1,550 feet in length.—From Aldergate street, opposite the end of Jewin street, to Smithfield, and from the corner of Little Britain across Bartholomew close, to communicate with the above line of street to Smithfield, about 1,280 feet in length.—From Threadneedle street, north side, at its junction with Broad street, and south side, from the church of St Benet Fink, to Finch lane, about 265 feet in length.—From Holborn bridge, north side, about 90 feet in length; Butcher-hall lane, east side, about 85 feet in length; St Martin's le Grand, north-east corner, Angel street.—From Maiden lane, north and south sides, about 275 feet in length; Jewin street, south side from the corner; Redcross street to Redcross square, and north corner next Aldersgate street; Aldermanbury, the west side of the south end; Milk street, east side next Cheapside; White Rose court, Coleman street, and Mason's alley, Moor lane, south side, east corner, and north end, west side, from White street to Type street, and south end, Milton street, east side; New Bridge street, Blackfriars, through Tudor street to the Temple.

MARCH OF EDUCATION.

THE system of education advocated by Mr Arthur Hill, which has now been tried for a series of years, offers the best results. While at school the boys, even in their sports, acquire the habits of thinking men, and the most unquestionable evidence is produced, from time to time, of the vast benefits such a course ensues in after-life. We visited this celebrated seminary on Tuesday, when the annual distribution of prizes at Bruce Castle, Tottenham, took place. In former years, many distinguished persons (including prelates and peers) have assisted, and the Messrs Hill were this year promised the aid of the Hon. and Rev. Montagu Villiers. The sickness and dangerous state of a brother compelled the Hon. and Rev. Gentleman to decline the gratifying labour which he had proposed to take upon himself. In this emergency General Sir Dudley Hill, K.C.B., obligingly took the chair.

Mr Arthur Hill opened the business of the day by explaining the general principles on which the Bruce Castle School is conducted—which is that of exciting general emulation, of bringing all the faculties of the mind into play, and identifying the scholars individually with the business of the school, as in a future day the men they are to become, must be identified with the affairs of the nation. He showed that the moral education of the pupil was sedu-

lously promoted, care being taken at the same time that this should not interfere with his literary and scientific pursuits, but rather to assist and forward them. In the course of his address he mentioned that punishments were few. For great offences in the school, they had what was called "a Prison." This was a small chamber, and had, in the course of the last six months, been occupied as a prison no more than sixty hours.

Sir Dudley Hill, the chairman, then addressed the assembly. He spoke from his own personal knowledge, in the highest terms, of the Bruce Castle Establishment. "When," said he, "I returned from the West Indies, seven years ago, I felt much anxiety about placing my son at an establishment where he would be likely to improve. Bruce Castle was named to me as that which I desired to find; and my son became an inmate of the establishment, where he remained four years. During that period he made the most astonishing progress, under the care of my excellent friend (Mr Hill). Talents my son must certainly have possessed, but they could not have been called forth so as to enable him to make the figure he now makes in the world, but for the admirable system from which he was enabled to profit at Bruce Castle. On his entrance at Addiscombe, being the youngest among a large number of examinees, several of whom were rejected, he acquitted himself in so distinguished a manner, as to gain the marked approbation of those before whom he appeared. At a second examination, before leaving the college, of all the scholars, some of whom were young men of seventeen, eighteen, or nineteen, he was the first to answer the questions put, not only in Latin, mathematics, &c., but also with respect to military fortification. He explained a battery there exhibited on a peculiar construction to the admiration of every one, and had been especially distinguished by the presence of mind which he had displayed. Several of the directors who examined him, remarked that they could almost have supposed he had been abroad and in battle, by the side of some of the general officers then acting as his judges. Finally, they unanimously decided that he was qualified to hold a commission in the engineers. It was thus that his son had succeeded, and in so short a period after leaving Bruce Castle. It was no trifling ordeal for a youth to go through before a number of general officers in uniform, nor could he have acquitted himself as he did, had the system pursued in the seminary in which he was educated been less excellent.

Mr Simpson, of Edinburgh, and Mr W. Chambers, severally bore testimony to the merits of the establishment.

The prizes were then about to be distributed, when Mr J. S. Buckingham, who

had had a son educated at Bruce Castle, addressed the meeting, and in the course of an able speech told a remarkable anecdote, most honourable to Sir Robert Peel. He stated, that meeting the Right Honourable Baronet in the lobby of the House of Commons, Sir Robert accosted him by saying that "he had good news for him." Sir Robert proceeded to say, that a situation in the West Indies having fallen vacant, it became his duty to fill it up, when he found there were two hundred applicants for it. He, upon that, remarked he could do nothing with such a list, and sent it to the department with which the appointment was connected (the Customs), and requested the commissioners would decide who was fittest to fill it. My son, said Mr Buckingham, was not on the list. The situation was too good for him to think of applying for, but such had been his conduct, from the habits he had acquired at Bruce Castle, that his name was sent to Sir Robert Peel as the fittest person in the establishment to fill the vacant post;" and, said Sir Robert, "I have much pleasure in proving that political differences would not cause me to oppose the advancement of a son of yours, who has been recommended to me by his merit alone."

The upright conduct of Sir Robert thus evinced made a great impression on the meeting. It is needless to expatiate on the feeling it created for the seminary which had so efficiently developed talent and good conduct. The facts speak for themselves, and the sentiment was, "By its fruit shall ye know the tree."

[Next week we purpose giving some further interesting particulars of Bruce Castle Establishment.]

THE MARQUIS OF HASTINGS.

DURING the French revolution, when the princes of that country were compelled to take refuge in England, Louis XVIII and the late Charles X were entertained by the Marquis (then Lord Moira) at Donnington, in a style of almost regal splendour. His lordship claimed the title and estates (which were large) of the earldom of Huntingdon, and succeeded in having his claim allowed. They were, however, claimed by another, a lieutenant in the R. N., who, after a considerable time, succeeded in obtaining them.

In gratitude for the attention which he had received during his exile, Louis XVIII requested of George IV that he would bestow some special mark of favour on Lord Moira, who, in consequence of this request, was raised to the Marquise of Hastings, the news of which reached him in India.

The late Marchioness was in possession, up to the period of her decease, of the hand with which the Marquis had married her; it was taken from his lordship after death,

we should presume from a romantic feeling of attachment to the late peer.

The present Marquis, we believe, has lived a retired life, ever since a melancholy occurrence which must be fresh in the remembrance of the reader.

KING OBIE AND THE COURT OF EBOE.

OUR navigators are very fond of quizzing the habits and appearance of the poor savages they encounter in various parts of the globe, and the chief or leader of a little band of black strollers is called king, and a sort of comparison invited between the mode of living of the half-naked inhabitants of the woods, and the usages of the higher classes in a great civilized community. This is, perhaps, hardly fair, but it is often very amusing. A correspondent in the 'Gardeners' Chronicle,' writing in this vein, gives an entertaining description of a visit paid by some individuals connected with the late expedition to the Niger, to King Obie. He says:—

"The town of Eboe is situated on the left bank of the Niger, and is approached by a narrow stream about a mile in length; it is one of the great marts of African commerce. In the stream we met with many canoes, of all sizes, belonging to tribes from different parts higher up the river. Many of the people live in these canoes upon the water, so that the entrance of the town assumes a very lively appearance. Some of the larger canoes are adorned with flags, having the most grotesque figures of animals, birds, and implements of warfare, worked upon them. To visit the palace of King Obie, we had to turn out of the main creek into a side one, about two hundred yards long. After walking through mud and water up to our knees for a quarter of a mile, we arrived at the seat of Royalty, which consisted of a quantity of mud-huts huddled together, without the least appearance of order. We were ushered into a square yard, with an open shed on three sides; on the other was the building which contained the sable beauties belonging to the mighty monarch of Eboe. Some of these dark ladies assumed a modesty that might vie with the most accomplished coquette of more civilised countries, by peeping from the entrance of their hut with all the curiosity inherent to the female portion of society, and showing their beautiful white teeth; darting away, however, the instant that they saw our eyes were fixed upon them. Others joined us, bringing little curiosities of their own manufacture in exchange for cotton, needles, rings, &c., which we took with us. The greater part of their garments are of Manchester manufacture, obtained from merchants who trade to the coast; one of the principal ornaments of both sexes consists of large ivory rings, worn round the arms and legs. Some of the men have obtained small bells, which they fasten round

the legs, and seem to be highly pleased with the tinkling which they produce in walking. During our stay, some of the native musicians attended with their instruments, most of which produced a horrible noise. After bidding farewell to the ladies, we took a survey of the town, which covers a large extent of land; the huts lie rather distant from each other, and are generally surrounded by a plot of ground, in which cocoa-nuts, bananas, plantains, &c., are grown. The town is intersected by small streams, which at this time were full of water; so that to get from one part to the other, you are obliged to wade up to the middle in mud and water. I was informed that during hot weather these creeks are dried up. As we paraded through the town, a great number of the inhabitants followed, who were greatly surprised when they saw the effects of our fire-arms upon the small birds. They seemed to fancy that we were possessed with supernatural powers, and paid us the greatest attention; even carrying a seat about after us, so that we might rest ourselves at our leisure; and the day being showery, they even held mats over us during the rain. Their objects of worship are numerous, nearly each dwelling having its *ge-ge*, or charm; some of these were the rude figure of a man cut out of wood, others are some utensil of common use among the people, or the skulls and bones of birds and beasts; all of which are protected by a small shed erected over them. Among the articles manufactured by the people are the wooden figures of different beasts. Polygamy is allowed, and a man is considered rich in proportion to the number of wives which he possesses; though slaves would be a more appropriate term, as the females do all the laborious work—such as cultivating yams, taking them to market, &c. Upon asking one of the traders to take us to the vessel lying in the river, he evinced as much sagacity in striking a bargain as could be expected from a merchant of Europe; and, as a preface, informed us that he had traded with the white people at Bonny, a place frequented by the palm-oil merchants. King Obie came on board the 'Wilberforce' twice during the time we were staying in his territories. He appeared to be about 60 years of age, though from the early decay of the African constitution it is probable that he might not be so old. He seemed proud of forming an acquaintance with the white men. His eldest son is tall, and of prepossessing appearance, about 20 years old; he was persuaded to dine on board during one of his visits, in which he did not deviate from the custom universal among Africans, of refusing to partake of wine before the person presenting it had previously tasted it. Upon the second visit of Obie to the vessel he brought with him two of his wives, who, by order of the captain, were each provided with an European dress. After being clothed they were each provided with a looking-glass; their pantomimic were truly ridiculous, as they turned about in every direction—first looking in the glass, and then upon the dress: Obie himself seemed no less pleased than they did. The highest degree of heat observed at this place was 85°.



Arms. Gu. a lion rampant, within a bordure, engr. ar. *Crest.* A scaling ladder, ar. *Supporters.* Dexter, a lion guardant, purp. ducally crowned or; sinister, a leopard guardant, purp. *Motto.* "Debon vouloir servir le Roi." "To serve the King with good will."

THE NOBLE HOUSE OF GREY.
It was in 1372, in the reign of King Edward the Fourth, that the individual recognized as the founder of this family, Sir John Grey, Knight, of Berwick, lived. He was succeeded by his son, Sir Thomas Grey, Knight, of Berwick and Chillingham. He died in 1402, leaving a son, who became Sir John. This Sir John was the issue of Sir Thomas and his lady, Jane, daughter of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk. Sir John was succeeded by his second son, Sir Thomas; Sir Ralph, the third son of Sir Thomas, succeeded him, and was succeeded by his great grandson, Sir Ralph. To him his grandson, Sir Ralph, succeeded. The third son of this gentleman, Sir Edward, followed, who was succeeded by his grandson, Edward Grey, Esq. His son and nephew were his successors; the latter was followed by his son, Henry Grey, Esq., of Howick, who was created a Baronet January 11, 1746. His son, Henry, who succeeded him, died unmarried. The honours of the family, in consequence, devolved on the fourth son of Sir Henry, above mentioned. This was Sir Charles Grey, K.B., who was born in 1729. He became a Major-General in 1777; Lieutenant-General in 1782; and General in 1796. He distinguished himself in the American war, and in 1794, in the breaking out of hostilities with France, had the chief command of the land forces sent to act in conjunction with Lord St Vincent, against the French West India Islands. After his return he commanded in the Southern District for England. In 1797 he became a member of the Privy Council, and was raised to the Peerage June 23, 1801, by the title of Baron Grey de Howick. He was further advanced to a Viscountcy and Earldom, April 11, 1806, as Viscount Howick and Earl Grey. He married, in 1762, Elizabeth, daughter of George Grey, Esq., of Southwick, by whom he had nine children, the eldest of whom is the present earl. Lord Grey was wounded in the battle of Minden, where

he served as aid-de-camp to Prince Ferdinand.

The present peer is the second earl. His splendid services in Parliament need not here be recalled. In all the great questions which have been agitated during the first forty years of the present century, he acted a conspicuous part. He became First Lord of the Treasury in 1830, and resigned office in 1834.

FUNERAL CHARGES IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

"A just note of the order concerning burials within the parish of Tottenham, in the county of Middlesex, usually paid in anno domini 1574, in the sixteenth year of the reign of our Lady Queen Elizabeth; viz. upon that time and at this present time; and entered into this new register in anno domini 1599, by Anthony Dale, of the aforesaid parish church of Tottenham, clerk in the aforesaid year.

In the Churchyard. £. s. d.

IMPRIMIS.—The vicar hath for every burial in this churchyard, being a parishioner, man, woman, or child 0 2 0

ITEM.—The vicar hath for every burial in the churchyard, being a foreigner, man, woman, or child 0 4 0

ITEM.—The clerk hath for every burial in the churchyard, being a parishioner, man, woman, or child, having the knell rung with the first bell, for the pit 4d. and for the knell 8d. 0 0 12

ITEM.—For the second bell 12d. and for the pit 4d. 0 0 16

ITEM.—For the third bell 16d. and for the pit 4d. 0 0 20

ITEM.—For the great bell 20d. and for the pit 4d. 0 2 0

ITEM.—For every foreigner, man, woman, or child 0 2 0

ITEM.—For every foreigner sick person so tolled 0 0 4

ITEM.—For every one man, woman, or child, being suffered and

buried in the churchyard path, for that pit or grave, being a parishioner

0 0 12

In the Body of the Church.

IMPRIMIS.—The churchwarden receiveth of every parishioner, man, woman, or child, for breaking the ground

0 6 8

ITEM.—The churchwarden receives of every foreigner, man, woman, or child

0 13 4

ITEM.—The vicar, of every parishioner, man, woman, or child

0 4 0

ITEM.—The vicar, of every foreigner, man, woman, or child

0 8 0

ITEM.—The clerk, of every parishioner, man, woman, or child

0 4 0

ITEM.—The clerk, of every foreigner, man, woman, or child

0 8 0

In the Middle Chancery.

IMPRIMIS.—The vicar hath in the middle chancery of every parishioner, man, woman, or child, for breaking the ground

0 15 0

ITEM.—The vicar hath of every parishioner, man, woman, or child, for executing his office

0 5 0

ITEM.—The vicar hath of every foreigner, man, woman, or child, for breaking the ground

0 30 0

ITEM.—Of every foreigner, man, woman, or child, for executing his office

0 10 0

ITEM.—The clerk hath of every parishioner, man, woman, or child

0 8 0

ITEM.—The clerk hath of every foreigner, man, woman, or child

0 16 0

In the South and North Chancery.

IMPRIMIS.—The churchwarden hath of every parishioner, man, woman, or child, for breaking the ground

0 10 0

ITEM.—The churchwarden hath of every foreigner, man, woman, or child, for breaking the ground

0 20 0

ITEM.—The vicar hath of every parishioner, man, woman, or child

0 10 0

ITEM.—The vicar hath of every foreigner, man, woman, or child

0 20 0

ITEM.—The clerk hath of every parishioner, man, woman, or child

0 8 0

ITEM.—The clerk hath of every foreigner, man, woman, or child

0 16 0

NOTE. *Divers well-disposed persons do, of their own frank and free liberality, give more than ordinary dues in respect of great pains taken and longer attendance given.*

FINIS.

Written by Anthony Dale, Clerk of the Parish Church of Tottenham."

Italy.—The Marquis of Douglas, with his bride, the Princess Mary of Baden, arrived at Rome. The Pope has given authority to a company of the Duchy of Modena to construct a railroad from Rome to Civita Vecchia.

FILIPPO SGRUTTENDIO.

FILIPPO SGRUTTENDIO has been styled the Petrarch of Neapolitan poetry, but he is a burlesque Petrarch. He lived in the 17th century, and is the principal lyric poet in the collection. His 'Canzoniere' is a parody of the lofty strains and touching lamentations of Laura's lover; there is an equal luxury of fancy and the same fluency of language, though of a coarser kind, in the parody as in the model. Sgruttendio took for the theme of his song a certain *Cecca*, a low Neapolitan slut, of whose charms he gives a most ludicrous account. He styles his poem, or rather collection of verses, *La Tiorba a taccone*, from the name of a species of guitar with ten strings, the latter being represented by the ten chapters or parts into which the book is divided. This fancy of imitative distribution in the framing of a poem, seems akin to the taste for acrostics, anagrams, logograms, and other puerile subtleties, and appears to have been a favourite among Neapolitan writers of the 17th century.

The first six chords of the *Tiorba* consist of above two hundred sonnets; in the first chord the author addresses his mistress in praise of her beauties, each sonnet separately portraying her hair, mouth, eyes, hands, &c., now describing the wonders that accompanied her birth, and now relating, in imitation of Petrarch, the time and place of the poet's falling in love. In the second and third chords he speaks in general of the various miseries and accidents which beset lovers. The fourth consists of sonnets addressed to sundry vulgar beauties, such as a scullion, a tripe-seller, or others noted for some bodily deformity, such as blind of one eye, cripple, hunch-backed, &c. The fifth chord, in imitation of Petrarch's second series of sonnets, consists of dirges and lamentations for *Cecca*'s death. Some of the sonnets begin in an apparently earnest and lofty tone, but they generally fall towards the end into the usual trivial strain. One sonnet begins—

Fermate, olla, tu che cammine e passe
Su questa via, addio nè stia fossa
Ch' è accesi bella fatta e granna e grossa
Pecchè nè è *Cecca* mia che me dea spasse.

Sonnet xiv is a tolerable parody of Petrarch's celebrated vision,—*Levommi il mio pensiero in parte o'vra*. Sgruttendio, striving in his dreams to follow the apparition, awakens and knocks his head against the chimney-piece.

The sixth chord is made up of sonnets addressed to Sgruttendio by his brother poets, and his replies in *rima obligata*. The names of the poets and of the academies they belong to sound most ludicrously. One is called Papocchia of the "drink-drunk academy;" another is styled "Take-him-to-feed," of the "piggish academy," and so forth.

Sgruttendio really revels in these absurd and odd-sounding appellatives, and his store of them seems inexhaustible. In some of the sonnets addressed to him, Sgruttendio is placed above Cortese and Abattutis, the two leaders till then of Neapolitan eloquence. One of the writers goes a step further, and compares him to Dante, Petrarch, Tasso, and *Marino*!

The seventh chord consists of epistles on the miseries of poets, on the low estate of people of merit and talent, and he mentions as instances several well-known ballad-singers and story-tellers of his time, with such names as Sbruffapappa, Cacapozonetto, &c. The last-mentioned was a lawyer who knew his Digest by heart; but, because he was poor, could not dress in silk nor wear gloves, and walked awkwardly, was followed and pestered by hundreds of urchins through the streets, who often obliged him to take refuge within the gates of some *palazzo*.

The eighth chord contains odes on various subjects, and the ninth is composed of dithyrambics, a species of composition for which the Italian in general seems well suited. The dithyramb was of lively Greek origin; the Latins, more stately and grave, did not inherit it, notwithstanding some attempts of Horace and Seneca; among modern nations, Italy alone has naturalized it successfully in her literature. Redi's Tuscan dithyramb is a happy model of this species of composition. In the dialect literature, the Venetians, Neapolitans, and Sicilians have most excelled in it; indeed we think the dialects, from their very irregularity and reckless freedom, admirably adapted for the riotous festivity and wild incoherence which constitute the spirit of the dithyramb.

In the tenth chord he resumes his lamentations over Cecca's death, relates several visions on the subject, and swears he will sing no more of love, but will break his guitar in despair. In all this, however, the ludicrous is abundantly mixed with the pathetic.

Sgruttendio's 'Glories of the Carnival' is the best performance in the whole volume. The light-hearted, jovial epicurean is there in his very element. Seated at table in a famed tavern in the neighbourhood of Naples, he is in raptures at the sight of the busy cooks and waiters, of kettles full of tripe, stewpans crammed with meat and broccoli, or with *polpette* or forced-meat balls; spittfuls of liver and ham with laurel leaves interposed between, besides the famous *zozifritto*; Cagliari macaroni, redundant with grated cheese and brown gravy, and bowls of salad of tender sprouts well seasoned with pepper, oil, and the juice of the bitter orange. But whence all this extraordinary movement?—Carnival has just set in.

He proceeds with a lively picture of the pleasures and follies of the Carnival season, such as they used to be in that giddiest of all Italian cities; for now, what with reduced fortunes, increased diffidence, police restrictions, and, we may add, a higher tone of the public mind, the Carnival is but a shadow of what it formerly was. Sgruttendio describes the various costumes and masks, the dances, the shouts of merriment, and above all he dwells with real *gusto* on the *salti spettacoli*, Policinella's enormous grotesque leaps, which form one of the favourite expressions of Neapolitan joy. Then come the showers of hard eggs with painted shells, oranges which fall in every direction, and sprinkling of ashes from the windows. The sound of kettles and timbrels, the bells ringing, the girls whirling round some unlucky wag whom they have got in the midst of them, and play all sorts of tricks upon the various masks armed with bags full of straw, bladders, and brooms, children dancing, drums beating, men singing in chorus, all this makes a jumbled scene of the most delectable confusion and uproar. The poet ends with appropriate eulogies of the various dishes of the season, sausages, black puddings, &c. the savoury perfumes and taste of which are described con amore.

Redi himself, in his notes to the 'Bacco in Toscana,' speaks in praise of Sgruttendio; and in truth the Neapolitan might be looked upon as a formidable rival to the Tuscan poet. The *Grolie de Carnvale* is one of the most lively effusions of this kind; it breathes the genuine bacchanalian spirit. It is followed by another poem in the same style, in praise of the great national dish, the mighty *Macaroni*. The poet begins by invoking Ceres, and goes on describing the process of macaroni-making, which, by the way, we can certify, from inspection, to be a most cleanly one. He compares them, when just spun out, and cut and spread in long skeins, to the milky way, and when hung in rows to dry, he assimilates them to the tresses of Berenice.

"For the love of them, men lavish their money, and some sell even their clothes." The poet then proceeds to describe the culinary preparations of *boiling*, *cheesing*, and *graying* them, and lastly, greedily swallowing them with an avidity which may well be styled *macaroni-mania*. We see the sturdy bull-necked fellow, with eyes upraised and chin protruding, cramming with his fingers the long, flexible, and slippery pipes down his capacious throat. Sgruttendio, after wishing that everything he touches might be turned into macaroni, ends at last, as a climax, by wishing to be metamorphosed into a macaroni himself!

THE CRUSADERS APPROACHING
JERUSALEM.

DURING their march from Archas all the associations of the land had been crowding upon the imaginations of the pilgrims of the Cross. The names of Ramla, Sidon, Emmaus, had all awakened the memories of what had passed in those places in earlier days ; and at the latter town, when they encamped for the evening, the host was joined by envoys from the Christians of Bethlehem, beseeching the leaders to send forward a body of men to protect that town from the threatened vengeance of the Saracens. Tancred was accordingly dispatched with a hundred lances to give the assistance required, but during the whole of that night the host of the crusade knew no repose. The name of Bethlehem, Bethlehem ! passed from mouth to mouth, recollections were awakened that banished sleep, all the enthusiasms of their nature were aroused, zeal and tenderness, and love, and hope, and indignation, for that sweet religion which they all professed, scared away slumber from every eye, and some hours before darkness disappeared the excitement became so great, that the army arrayed itself spontaneously, and began to move towards Jerusalem. It was a beautiful summer morning, we are told, in the month of June, and ere the great body of the crusade had proceeded many miles, the day broke in all the majesty of eastern light. They had just reached the summit of a gentle hill, when starting up with the rapidity which characterises the dawn of Syria, the sun rushed forth, and they beheld in the distance a rocky steep, crowned with towers, and walls, and domes, and minarets. 'Jerusalem ! Jerusalem !' became the cry throughout the army, as the object of all their toil, and labour, and strife, and suffering appeared before their eyes. All that they had endured up to that moment, weariness, thirst, famine, pestilence, and the sword, were forgotten in exceeding great joy, or only remembered to render that joy more ecstatic and overpowering. The effect could scarcely be borne : some laughed, some wept, some shouted "Hierosolyma !" some cast themselves on the ground, some fainted, and some died upon the spot.—*Cœur de Lion.*

Chinese Politeness.—As civilization advances, men wish to show their confidence to their friends. They treat their guests as relations ; and it is said that in China, the master of a house, to give a mark of his politeness, absents himself while his guests regale themselves at his table with undisturbed revelry.

Reviews.

Diary of the Times of Charles the Second, by the Hon. H. Sydney, afterwards Earl of Romney, including his Correspondence, &c. Edited by R. W. Blencowe, Esq., A.M. 2 vols. Colburn.

A DIARY of the Times of Charles II is so far removed from a novelty, that to most readers it must be a bore. What can be duller than a string of commonplaces, dated, indeed, 1670, but hardly differing in anything from what is said, done, and written, in 1843 ? That people could then write letters is a fact beyond all dispute, and unless those letters contained something clever or remarkable, we do not see the utility of publishing. That is no affair of ours, and our opinion is, perhaps, unnecessary, as we more than suspect of such a yawn-provoking volume there will be few disposed to purchase. The most amusing scrap we can find is that which exhibits his merry Majesty in juxtaposition with the people of the city :—

" His Majesty and his City of London are upon very good terms. When he supped this week at the Mayor's, the people showed as much of affection and duty as the expressions at such a time could be. The Lady Mayoress sat next to the King, all over scarlet and ermine, and half over diamonds. The Aldermen drank the King's health over and over upon their knees, and wished all hanged and damned that would not serve him with their lives and fortunes. They attended him to Whitehall at two o'clock in the morning ; they would not trust him with his guards, who were all drunk, but brought some of their own, and they all went merry out of the King's cellar. The next day they came in a full body, to give both the King and Duke thanks for the honour they had done them. The Mayor is now as well affected as anybody, and was as ill."

Pictorial History of France. Part XIV.
Orr and Co.

THIS important work has now reached a very interesting period, that of the struggle of the Huguenots. The epocha was a stormy one, and fruitful of all sorts of violence, the *avant-courteurs* of the butchery of St Bartholomew. A retrospective glance, which is taken of the progress of society in France during the several reigns which preceded Henry the Second, will bring some remarkable incidents before the literary student.

" During the period to which attention is now turned, the discovery of the pantelets of Julian assisted the growing ideas of European legislators, and waked a general taste for ancient literature. Unhappily,

in this, as in almost every case where men in high situations have been able to choose their models, the fierce and the triumphantly cruel were the objects of studied imitation, rather than the sage and the good: the princes of the time thought of imitating Alexander and Hannibal, rather than Socrates and Aristides. Dreams of conquest, worthless if realised, still made the delight of monarchs, as if war were the only natural and legitimate business of mankind.

"Pomp increased in the French court, and the artificers of pageantry were held in great request; but their labours, though attended with enormous expense, were not always, even on the grandest occasions, remarkable for their purity of taste. On the occasion of the gorgeous spectacle which astonished Paris when Louis XI, after a long absence, entered his capital, 'The Scandalous Chronicle' of Comines informs us, that the procession included representations of angels, the Virgin Mary, and the Saviour of man. It comprehended also, 'wild men that played the parts of gladiators; and near them were placed three handsome females, stark naked, representing mermaids, with lovely hard white bosoms, a glorious sight! sporting, and singing gay, enlivening airs.' Yet even this is less disgusting than the splendour of a later reign, where we find 'the chevalier king' seeking to propitiate Heaven by a grand parade, and closing the magnificent spectacle by committing six unfortunate beings to the flames. The absence of decorum in the former instance is not so astounding as the affected piety and horrible cruelty identified with the latter. Religion was indeed generally treated with profound contempt by the sovereigns, till misfortune or death compelled them to think of eternity. The name of the Eternal was on numerous occasions profaned, while his most sacred laws were deliberately violated. Yet the most cold-blooded hypocrite that ever filled a throne could produce the wood of the true cross to sanctify a treaty, appealed to the Virgin to gain his pardon for a brother's murder, and died calling on our Lady of Embrun to protect him!

"Caricatures and satirical ballads were numberless in Paris from the time of Louis XI. The course of wit and ridicule was as resistless as that of the reformed faith itself. Nothing could long impede its progress, nothing could extinguish it.

"Of the general policy of the monarchs of Europe volumes might be written, but little need be said. Moved by selfishness and vengeance, we find the same princes at different periods pursuing courses diametrically opposite. The fine maxim of King John of France, that 'honour, if banished from the rest of the world, ought to find a

home in the hearts of princes,' was but very differently illustrated by his successors. The principle acted upon, even by that high-minded votary of glory, Francis I, was anything but consistent with what is called common honesty. He, when about to sign the treaty of Madrid, thought it consistent with his honour to prepare beforehand a protest against it, and this, in his royal mind, was sufficient to render null and void any treaty to which he might subsequently put his hand. Such laborious care to gain an important point by dissimulation was but little in the spirit of the sentiment breathed by the other royal captive. It was much more in accordance with the vile principle of Louis XI, *Qui nescit dissimilare nescit regnare.*"

Science.

PROFESSOR FARRADAY'S RECENT EXPERIMENTS UPON THE ELECTRICITY OF STEAM AND THUNDER STORMS.

A PROCESS of evaporation is continually going forward upon the surface of the earth, the dews and moisture from which are formed into clouds, and which, becoming surcharged with the electricity continually given out by vegetable and animal substances, produce the phenomena of lightning and the thunder-storm. This opinion was greatly strengthened by the discovery of a supposed power in steam to evolve electricity, an effect first observed at Mr Armstrong's works at Newcastle. We refer our readers to our number of February the 25th, where Mr Armstrong's experiments are fully shown.

Several papers on the subject were subsequently published, and it has ever since been laid down as a principle of science, upon which most important philosophical theories have been based, that electricity is produced by the evaporation of water into steam or vapour. The subject has lately occupied the attention of Professor Farraday, and the result of his investigations has been a demonstration of the fallacy of this popular notion. By a series of beautiful and novel experiments, Mr Farraday showed that this peculiar electrical phenomenon was the result of the water which became condensed in the pipe, and not of the steam evaporated from the water in the boiler or its mere friction in rushing through the tube; but that water alone pressed rapidly through a tube would produce the effect heretofore supposed to belong to steam, it being essentially necessary that the water should be at so low a temperature as to come in contact with the inner surface of the tube, the intervention of a thin coat of steam be-

tween the two wholly destroying the power of producing electricity. In order to produce the effect, it is necessary that the water should be perfectly pure, even that supplied to the metropolis for culinary purposes not being sufficiently clarified for this object. A very small portion of common Glauber's salts dropped into pure water destroyed its efficacy, whilst the electricity was immediately evolved from distilled water. The nature of this electricity was shown to be changed from positive to negative, or *vice versa*, by certain extraneous substances coming in contact with the water; and its degree of intensity was evinced by charging Leyden jars, and drawing sparks from the aperture of the boiler sufficient to ignite a jet of gas. In former times it was imagined that a "cat's back" and other matters were the most excitable of electric substances. It is now proved beyond a doubt that there is no substance in nature so high in the scale of excitation as water. Mr. Farraday, in conclusion, contended that neither steam nor its action had anything to do with the evolution of electricity, or the higher phenomenon of the thunder storm and the flash of lightning, neither of which could be formed by evaporation from the surface of the earth. The important principles propounded in this lecture have excited the greatest interest in the scientific world.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—In the discussion in support of the durability of iron vessels, it was stated that iron canal boats, which had been made full forty years since, were now in use in Staffordshire; and that the "Aaron Manby," which was built in 1821, and was the first iron steamer ever sent to sea, had been constantly in use up to the present time, without requiring any material repair.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Mr. E. Solly, in his concluding lecture, adverted to the facility with which nitrogen in the nascent state combines with hydrogen to form ammonia. This was shown by decomposing nitric acid by tin, when an oxide of tin was formed and the nascent nitrogen combined immediately with hydrogen to form ammonia; the absorbent power of various substances in relation to ammonia was also shown, and especially of charcoal, road-scrapings, water, and oxide of iron. The production of nitrates by the combination of nitrogen, and oxygen in the presence of bases, nitrate of potash near purifying matter, and nitrate of lime in mortar, was explained. Mr. Solly proceeded to consider the nature of humus and humic acid. He professed his reception of the doctrine of the English school, and adopted by Liebig,

that the true office of humus is to furnish carbonic acid by combining with oxygen; humic acid, he observed, does not exist of itself in the soil, but is an artificial product obtained by the action of alkalies on humus; he did not consider that there was any good reason for saying that humic acid has anything to do with the nutrition of plants. From this he passed to the consideration of the mechanical texture of soils, and here stated that he had found the capacity of retaining moisture in a soil singularly increased by the addition of muritate of lime, in very minute quantities. After showing that all plants contain ammonia, and producing it from the potato, he proceeded to the consideration of its organic matter, and observed that the value of a plant for food was not to be judged of by the quantity of its solid organic contents; for horse radish contains $\frac{784}{7000}$; while the kidney bean contains $\frac{1000}{1000}$; it was the azotised substances alone, which are directly assimilated by animals. In speaking of electricity, he stated that his remarks led him to believe that the vital actions of plants and electrical forces were intimately connected; that the latter would probably be one day found of great importance in agriculture, and that they probably assisted in a high degree in maintaining the electrical equilibrium of the atmosphere. In speaking of the food of plants phosphoric acid was particularly alluded to, and the reasonable expectation that the compounds of phosphorus would prove of more service as manures than any other substances. In conclusion, he directed attention to the important office executed by plants as purifiers of the atmosphere, not merely by absorbing carbonic acid and extracting oxygen, but by decomposing poisonous miasmas, and he mentioned a case where a bean had retained its health in an atmosphere containing so large a proportion as $\frac{1}{10}$ of sulphuretted hydrogen. The innocence of this gaseous compound had already been indicated by the luxuriant vegetation described by Humboldt as surrounding the fetid lakes of South America, and was now by this and other experiments placed beyond all doubt.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.—Mr. Read attended the Council for the purpose of explaining the construction and adaptation of his pipe-tiles, and of laying before the meeting the following letter on the same subject, addressed to him by Mr. T. Hammond, of Penshurst, Kent:—“As you wish to be informed of the expenses of draining with cylindrical tiles, and my opinion of their effects, I have troubled you with this letter. Porous soils, the drains three feet deep, placed at the distance of two rods in parallel lines up the field, and afterwards subsoil ploughed, will

be completely drained at the following expense per acre :—

1,350 tiles, at 21s. per 1000, £1 8 6
Cutting drains, and laying
the tiles, at 4d. per rod, 1 6 8
£2 15 2

I have not included the expense of fetching the tiles, as that depends on the distance; but they are made so light that we can carry off 7,000 with a single waggon. I am at this time draining on a stiff clay soil, the drains two feet deep, with 24 feet between the drains: expense as follows:—

1,850 tiles, at 21s. per 1000, £1 16 9
Cutting drains, and laying
tiles, at 3d. per rod, - - 1 7 6

£2 4 3

I have this last winter drained about ten acres with the round tiles, and am quite satisfied they act better than any others yet made, as they are not liable to be disturbed by moles, or any other vermin (which the other sort admit), and can be laid with greater nicety in the drains than tiles of any other shape. I have now had twenty years' experience of the effects of draining, and am quite satisfied that no expenditure on the land will make so good a return. The soil being by its means relieved of stagnant water to the depth of three feet, immediately admits the atmosphere into its pores, and accordingly what was before inert at once becomes active soil; allowing the roots of plants to penetrate it, and the rain, which was previously injurious, to pass through the soil into the drains with beneficial effect. I am of opinion that the size of the tile may be still further reduced, with an equally good result, so as to reduce the cost of making and carriage 15 per cent. below the price of those I have already sent you, which were made by order for me, being smaller than any of the manufacturers had made before."

ANTIQUITIES OF GARDENING.

Amaranthe.—“When Gerard wrote his Herbal he knew only of two Purple Amaranthes and one Scarlet, and that with the painted leaves; but of late years the English florists have raised above half a score of new varieties out of seed that came first from Surat in Persia, many of which are very fine, and are of different scarlets, and other reds, or of a lovely yellow; all the colours very orient and faire.”

Roses.—“The Damaske Rose is very common with us, and the sweetest of all. The Variegated Damaske, or York and Lancaster, which is the true Damaske, striped well with white; a fine rose when it marks rightly, sweet as the Damaske.

Of *Yellow Roses* wee have only one double, which is as big as a reasonable Provinc when it blows well, which it seldom does, either in England or other countreyes, being eaten up commonly with wormes in the bud. In Italy they hold it likes best in a coole place. Wee know by experience that it loves to run up high and not to be cut at the tops. It is a lovely flower, being of a rich yellow colour. It blows very well in an open pure aire, near Hogmagog hills, not far from Cambridge, and a light soyle. In Italy there hath been above these twenty years a fine rose, the seed whereof came from the East Indyes; it is called in Latin commonly *Rosa sinensis*, by the Indians (Chinese) *Fuyo*. It grows to a high tree for a rose, hath a leaf like a fig (this is doubtless the *Hibiscus Rosa sinensis*). Ferrarius was the first raiser of it from seed in these parts of the world.”

Christ's Thorn.—“In Latin, *Paliurus*; it is a shrubby bush, with small roundish leaves and many sharp thorns. It grows plentifully in Palestine, and is called Christ's Thorn because it was thought that the crown of thorns was of this tree.”

The Cedar, usually called of Libanus.—“No tree continues longer free from corruption than this. Wee have of late had some fine plants raised from seed which are yet very small, so that it is very rare in England as well as in the rest of Europe.”—*Gardeners' Chronicle*.

TO MAKE A SALAD WORTHY OF A MAN OF TASTE.

Two boiled potatoes, strained through kitchen sieve,
Softness and smoothness to the salad give;
Of mordant mustard take a single spoon.—
Distrust the condiment that bites too soon,
Yet deem it not, thou man of taste, a fault,
To add a double quantity of salt.
Four times the spoon with eel of Lucca crown,
And twice with vinegar—procured from town!

True taste requires it, and your Poet begs,
The pounded yolk of two well-boiled eggs;
Let onions' atoms lurk within the bowl,
And, scarce suspected, animate the whole;
And lastly, in the flavoured compound toss,
A magic spoonful of anchovy sauce.
Oh, great and glorious! Oh, herbaceous meat!

Twould tempt the dying anchoret to eat;
Back to the world, he'd turn his weary soul,
And dip his finger in the salad-bowl.

(Ascribed to the Rev. Sidney Smith.)

Sunday at Turin.—Nowhere is religion more ostentatious, or even more obtrusive, than at Turin; and yet the whole of the Lord's day presents the spectacle of a fair, rather than that of a holy convocation.—*Gilly's Waldensian Researches.*

The Gather.

A LORDLY CANDIDATE FOR FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS.—The report is, that the noble author of 'The Tuft-Hunter' means to start for the prize offered by Mr Webster for the Encouragement of the Drama. He has already dipped into 'The School for Scandal', 'John Bull', 'The Careless Husband', and 'Marriage', and got through 'Money' (Sir Edward Bulwer's), *not his own*. As the plays are to be sent in with a motto, his, it has been surmised, will be, "Many can help one though one cannot help many."

Pews Revolutionary.—Mr John Neale, Bachelor of Trinity College, has discovered that pews are identified with king-killing. He writes:—

"Twas a humble old custom to kneel side by side,
But pews came at first of contention and pride,
And those wicked men who invented the thing,
They pull'd down the churches and mur'd their king."

Public Expenditure in France.—The Government estimate of expenditure for the current year was one milliard, 281,013,710 francs. It is proposed to reduce it to one milliard, 262,064,633.

Confined Animals.—It is well known how slowly the carp multiplied in ponds. Walton accuses the frogs of destroying them, but the truth is that they devour their own spawn, and this may be accounted for by the little room they have to range in search of food: besides, all creatures are more or less denaturalized by confinement. I once saw a hen at sea, eating the egg she had just dropped, and the sight of the poor sea-sick poultry in their miserable coops, is at all times exceedingly unpleasant.—*Southery.*

Forgiveness.—A clergyman once urging the necessity of forgiving his enemy on a dying chieftain, quoted the text "Vengeance is mine." "To be sure," replied the penitent, "it is too sweet a morsel for a mortal. Well, I forgive him; but the devil take you, Donald," turning to his son, "if you forgive him."—*Quarterly.*

Notions of a Future State.—The Pampas Indians believe in a future state, and expect that they will be constantly drunk, and will always be hunting; and point with their spears to constellations in the heavens, which they say are the figures of their ancestors reeling in the firmament.—*Head's Rough Notes.*

Love of Country.—As Abernethy said the parks of London were its lungs, so our mountains, forests, and moor lands are the lungs of the whole country. It is there we drink in from all things around us a new life, a new feeling, full of the benevolent

calm which is shed by its Creator over the world. Scott said he must see the heather at least once a year, or he should die. Crabbe mounted his horse in a passion of desire which could no longer be resisted, and rode fifty miles to see the sea; and more or less of this feeling lies in every bosom that is not totally dead to the true objects of life.—*Howitt.*

Racine and his Characters.—In his piece of 'Esther,' which was performed for the first time at St Cyr, in the presence of the court, it was supposed that Racine intended to represent the characters of Louis and Madame de Maintenon under those of Ahasuerus and Esther, and those of Louvois and Madame de Montespan under those of Vashti and Haman.

The Way to get Rich.—I knew a man who contrived to save a little out of a very small salary, by carefully avoiding unnecessary expense. Knowing that the gratification of the appetite for drink is attended not only with expense but with other evils, he contrived to beguile or satisfy his thirst by keeping a pebble in his mouth or chewing a straw. In this and similar modes he realized an ample fortune.—*Dr Hodgkin.*

A Drunkard's Fate.—The determined sot is led, by his depraved appetite, to the commission of acts the most disgusting and revolting. A wretch of this description once made his way into an anatomical museum, where he drank the spirit in which the preparation was preserved until he became completely intoxicated, in which state he fell upon the fire and was burnt to death.—*Ibid.*

Victor Amadeus.—This prince was the first king of his race, and the true founder of the Sardinian monarchy; the whole of his reign was laboriously employed in endeavouring to increase his power; he disciplined his army, put in order his finances, consolidated all parts of his administration, and acquired a part of Milan, the kingdom of Sardinia, and the eventual succession of Spain. The most powerful prince of Italy, he left to his successor a possibility of becoming the only sovereign of that peninsula, and pointed out to them the road which they were to follow in order that they might succeed. This prince, fatigued with affairs and disgusted with the world, wishing to seek repose in the pleasures of friendship, married the Marchioness of St Sebastian, and ceded the crown to his son; but he had soon reason to repent of this. Bad councils overtook Charles Emanuel; they enchain'd his heart and terrified his mind; and the unfortunate Amadeus, imprisoned by a son to whom he had just given the crown, expired soon after, with indignation and grief at treatment so barbarous and ungrateful.—*Le Sage.*

Staining of Wood.—Spanish Mahogany Stain. Take logwood chips, 2 oz.; madder root in powder, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; juniper chips, 1 oz.; water, 1 gallon. Boil it for two hours, and use the decoction boiling hot. When it has been applied several times and become dry, brush over the surface slightly with a solution made of an ounce of pearlash dissolved in a quart of water.—*Black Stain.* Brush the wood over with a solution of copper in aqua fortis, and afterwards with decoction of logwood, which must be repeated until the colour is obtained.—*Yellow Stain.* Powdered turmeric root, 1 oz.; rectified spirit of wine, 1 pint. Digest the mixture for four days, shaking it occasionally, then strain it off for use; apply it several times to the wood, letting each application dry before another is put on. If you require the colour to be of a reddish cast, use a little dragon's blood to the mixture.

Improved Steel Pens.—The goose-quill which has “braved a thousand years” varieties of battles and breezes, is likely at last to be conquered by steel. A specimen of Alderton’s pens has been submitted to us, and we, on trying them, have really proved them to be so free from the defects of which we have hitherto complained, that we think it likely they will find favour with those who could never write with them before. One advantage is, they carry a good supply of ink, without risk of blotting, and give it out so frugally that a single dip will often suffice to write a whole letter.

The Ximphometer.—A curious little instrument has lately been invented, which, though not much longer than a tooth-pick, will enable the wearer to hang up his hat where he pleases, or indeed, anything to the weight of fifty pounds, completely out of his way. It will be found very useful in a crowded theatre or concert room, or any public meeting, and be likely to save the economist a hat per annum. It will also serve for a cigar-holder.

Shakspeare’s Father.—Some papers relative to the Shakspeare family have lately been obtained from Warwickshire by the Shakspeare Society. They are said to prove that the father of the poet, though a Justice of the peace and bailiff of Stratford, could not write his own name, and was obliged to sign public documents with his mark.

Extraordinary Meteoric Stone.—On the evening of the 2nd inst., about eight o’clock, a meteoric stone fell in the commune of Blaanwkapel, about a league from the city. After a violent explosion, repeated three or four times, resembling a discharge of artillery, a whistling and howling noise was heard, which excited much anxiety and alarm among the villagers. The servant of a farmer, who was bringing some

horses home from the field, saw at a short distance a heavy body fall to the ground with such violence that the sand was raised to a considerable height in the air. Having procured a spade, he returned to the place, and found the stone at the depth of three feet in the stratum of sand which extends below the clay. It weighs seven pounds, and is of a longish irregular shape.

Cricket-playing at Rome.—The Roman citizens have been astonished by a match of cricket, played on the 22nd ult., by a party of English gentlemen, for 500 scudi aside. The match came off in the ground of the Borghezza Villa, in the presence of an immense concourse of spectators.

One of the Plagues of Egypt.—The Cape of Good Hope has been desolated by immense swarms of locusts, which left their eggs in the earth; and now these are hatched, the whole country swarms with them, hopping about for several weeks until they get wings, and destroying every blade of grass. It is, however, hoped they may leave as soon as they can fly, but others would probably supply their places.

—Among the miscellaneous cargo carried out to Egypt by the ‘Great Liverpool,’ was a case of six salmon, caught in the river Tert, near Southampton. They were well packed in ice, and there is little doubt of their arriving at their destination in good condition. As this description of fish has never yet been seen in Egypt, it will indeed be a rarity.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In answer to our correspondent H. B., of Thapier Inn, we must say we cannot agree with the first sentence of his letter. He will oblige us by being more explicit respecting his theory, and by pointing out clearly what it is to which he expects a reply.

*H. B.—Camphor is produced mostly from the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, Japan and China. It is extracted from the plant of two species of *Laurus*. It is obtained by distilling the plant, roots and all, with water. The heads of the stalks are earthware, stufed with straw. The camphor becomes solid by condensation, and forms itself among the straw; some also comes over with the water. It is afterwards sublimed in flat glass vessels, the camphor adhering to the upper part, which is kept cooler than the lower. The glass vessels are broken to separate them from the upper part. The roots of rosemary, thyme, anemony, *pusilla*, and other vegetables, give camphor by distillation.*

G. Mansell.—The frosting of the silver by the electrolytic process may be performed by reversing the poles of the voltaic battery. If the subject to be electrolysed was finished in the way the electrolyte was desired, the electrolyte will not alter the appearance. We advise our correspondent to call on Mr Palmer, at the Polytechnic Institution, Regent street, who is the best electrolyptist in England, from whom he will get any information he desires. We are not aware that the “Moon-Seeker,” by the celebrated German writer Tieck, has appeared in an English dress.

An “Old Correspondent” must not be offended if we decline his last favour. It is not worthy of him.

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